

describes in detail how it was raised and how it was expended. Of that only about one-seventh was raised by direct taxation, namely the hearth tax or chimney money, which produced about £200,000 per annum. Under James II the revenue was increased to a little over two millions, by imposing additional duties on wine, sugar, tobacco, and other commodities. The King preferred indirect taxes because they did not involve an annual application to Parliament, as they were usually granted for a term of years or for life ; and the Members of Parliament preferred them because they were landowners. The Earl of Ailesbury, who proposed the new taxes in the House, tells us the instructions he received from James,

He would not have one farthing laid on land. That/ said he (and like a true English king), ' is the last resource if God Almighty should afflict us with a war. Lay it ... on luxury, as chocolate, tea, coffee, Indian commodities as not necessary for the life of man, and (with warmth) 'on wine'; (for he was a most sober prince). ' Who obliges people to make themselves drunk? But if they will drink, let them pay for it/ ^x

This is a compendious statement of the Tory theory of taxation just before the Revolution.

When William III became king the hearth tax was abolished because it was unpopular, but it had to be re-

placed by a window tax in 1695, when money was needed to pay the cost of the re-coinage. The war with France at once made it necessary to revert to direct taxation, in the shape of poll taxes and assessments on property, such as had existed during the Civil War, in the days of Cromwell, and during the Dutch wars of Charles II. During the

¹ Memoirs of Thomas, Earl of Ailesbury, ed. W. E. Buckley (2 vols. ; Roxburghe Club, 1890), i. 105.